



2KP protection  
for under £100

Velcro keeps  
them secure

**Oxford Nexus £99.99**

## Protection meets value



**Tested by Ben Clarke for 1000 miles**

A bit of a revelation for the sub-£100 bracket, offering CE 2KP certification usually reserved for pricier kit. Having put them through 12 months and over 1000 miles of runway thrashing, road riding, and group testing, I'm genuinely impressed. For your money, you get a full leather build

with serious knuckle, finger, and palm armour – even aramid reinforcements and touchscreen tips – a real rarity at this price. Comfort-wise, they're on the thicker side and the thumb's got a smidge too much leather, but the vented panels mean sweaty palms aren't an issue, even in a balmy 30°C. They look a bit plain (especially in black) and the shiny TPU isn't to my taste, but the craftsmanship is solid with tidy

stitching and quality Velcro. On the bike, feedback is good but not razor-sharp with a slightly wonky fit thanks to the thumb, but I never felt shortchanged on safety – even at over 160mph (on a runway). For £99.99, the Nexus are a bargain, only narrowly edged visually by the LS2 Swift, and well worth the cash for road or track.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.oxfordriderwear.com](http://www.oxfordriderwear.com)

**12 months ON TEST**

**Alpinestars AMT 10 Drystar XF £149.99**

## 'Glove for all occasions'



**Tested by Michael Guy for two years and six months**

With the British weather being what it is, finding a glove that meets the ever changing scenarios of a multi-day trip or long ride isn't easy. I've also become more precious in my old age so am often guilty of packing at least one spare set of gloves in the panniers if I know that I'm going to be on the road for a while.

I generally ride adventure bikes which I like to take off-road, so having a glove that gives me a lot of feel is paramount. The SMT Drystar XF gloves from Alpinestars do an impressive job of ticking the long list of spec boxes I want from a pair of gloves.

First of all they are a laminated glove which means they are supposed to be waterproof – which they generally have been apart from a couple of long trips in torrential rain where they eventually failed. But what I most like about them is the fit and the quality of the goat skin palm

**2.5 years ON TEST**

**Protective with plenty of feel too**

which does a great job of protecting your hands when pushing off-road while being thin enough to give excellent feel and control.

There's also a high level of protection with the injection-moulded knuckles along with the Kevlar reinforced sides. The long, adjustable and generously sized cuff makes them easy to put on and go on the outside of your jacket. There are touchscreen-compatible thumb and finger panels, too.

They're versatile, but are definitely most suited to spring and autumn where conditions are nearly always changing.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.alpinestars.com](http://www.alpinestars.com)



**Alpinestars SMX-1 Air V2 £89.99**

## 'Short and sweet'



**Tested by Michael Neeves for 18 months**

I've had more use out of these 'shortie' gloves than you might expect. I wear them when the temperature breaks the 20°C barrier and find them cooler and less clumpy than full-on leather gloves, thanks to their perforated leather and mesh fabric. That said, they won't offer the same level of protection as a 100% leather glove. I also use them through the winter on my scooter, thanks to its heated grips and muffs. They've clocked-up loads of miles and still look like new.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.alpinestars.com](http://www.alpinestars.com)

**18 months ON TEST**



**RST Crosby CE £54.99**

## 'Retro looks are holding up'



**Tested by Phil Clarke for two years**

I bought these just after I'd left the Big Smoke for greener pastures, back when I was willing to trade almost any feature for retro style. The waxed leather has held up well, despite being properly abused through off-roading and Welsh downpours. I love the super secure fit from the elasticated wrist strap. The handful of small perforations are surprisingly effective.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.rst-moto.com](http://www.rst-moto.com)

**2 years ON TEST**



**Merlin Jura Air Mesh D30 £79.99**

## 'Perforation perfection'



**Tested by Justin Hayzelden for one year**

I can't stand having hot hands when I'm riding.

Not only are sweaty palms uncomfortable, but it's also a solid indicator that I'm overheating in general and that's far from ideal for concentration. Short, ventilated gloves are the answer in helping me keep cool, whisking body heat away in much the same way as an oil cooler works stuck out in front of an engine. The Merlin Jura Air are a perfect case in point, and boast a highly breathable mesh backing that also keeps fingers, thumb and fist flexible on the controls. They're as lightweight as CE certified gloves get, and as a result feel more like a motocross glove than something



Cool hands ensure  
you keep a cool head

**2900 miles ON TEST**

intended for road use. CE certified protection is to 1KP standard, with impact absorbing D30 under the knuckle and on the scaphoid – the part of the hand that is most likely to hit the ground first if you land palms down. Although they're a well-made glove, there's no getting away from

the fact that the mesh doesn't mix well with the Velcro wrist fasteners and the finger tips are starting to look a bit tatty. I'm not sure if that affects their structural integrity, but it does spoil the look a tad.

**MCN rating ★★★★★**  
[www.merlinbikegear.shop](http://www.merlinbikegear.shop)